

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

Members Present:

Michael F. Crowley, Jr., Chairman

Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chair

Kellie DiPalma

Liana Fenton

William O'Connell

Also Present:

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent Services

Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager

Edward Collins, Facilities Director

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. Administrative staff members present were Steven Ruscito.

MOTON: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To seal the minutes of Executive Session. Unanimous vote.

MOTON: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To approve settlement of Grievance 33-11. Unanimous vote.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

•Student Awards – Senator Jack Reed High School Arts Competition

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

No “Spotlight on Teaching and Learning”

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No “Student Activities” for June 16, 2011.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger listed items of information:

- Binding arbitration resolutions from other communities**

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for June 16, 2011.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma , 2) Liana Fenton. To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.

- Approval of Minutes of May 19, 2011 School Committee Meeting**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 24, 2011, in the amount of \$442,308.39**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 9, 2011, in the amount of \$5,096.64**
- Superintendent’s Recommendation on Personnel**

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

CHANGE DATE OF RETIREMENT FROM JUNE 30, 2011 TO AUGUST 31, 2011

Vincent Giuliano Principal, J.H. Gaudet School

RESIGNATION FOR PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT

Michael Burke Lead Custodian, Facilities Management Department

APPROVAL OF JOB SHARE FOR 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR

Kimberly Ceglarski Kindergarten Teacher, Forest Avenue School

Cynthia Tanguay Literacy, J.H. Gaudet School

APPROVAL OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR

Dana Ramey Foreign Language Teacher, Middletown High School

Mr. Ramey will be part of induction program for RTTI. This is a fellowship leave to R.I. Department of Education.

ACTION ITEMS

FUNDRAISING AND FLYER DISTRIBUTION POLICY – 2nd READING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the Fundraising and Flyer Distribution Policy – 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

FUND BALANCE POLICY – 1ST READING

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee approve the Fund Balance Policy – 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

This policy is part of the adopted policies necessary for GASB 54 to clarify the fund balance. Regulation is to provide clarity to committees, government, and readers of financial statements. A fund balance between 3.5 - 5% is the recommendation from the auditor.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT JOB

DESCRIPTION – 1ST READING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee approve the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Job Description – 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT JOB DESCRIPTION – 1ST READING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent Job Description – 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES JOB DESCRIPTION – 1ST READING

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee approve the Administrative Assistant to the Director of Facilities Job Description – 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

DISTRICT SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT PERSONNEL JOB DESCRIPTION – 1ST READING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma , 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the District School Administrative Support Personnel Job Description – 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

DISTRICT SCHOOL DATA PERSONNEL JOB DESCRIPTION – 1ST READING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the District School Data Personnel Job Description – 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

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BID AWARD

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee award the Gaudet Middle School Intercom System bid to R.I. Telephone. Unanimous vote.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee authorize payment of bills through June 30, 2011. Unanimous vote.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee authorize the transfer of funds to appropriate lines of the budget. Unanimous vote.

LUNCH PRICES

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma , 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the increase in hot lunch prices by .25 at all levels - \$2.50 elementary, \$2.75 middle school and high school. Motion passed 4 to 1.

Yea: Michael Crowley Abstain: William O'Connell

Theresa Spengler

Liana Fenton

Kellie DiPalma

Mrs. Spengler said that at Gaudet School and the High School there are a lot of choices and the price increase is worth it. At the elementary schools there are not as many choices. Ms. Pellerin said that Middletown's lunch prices fall below the State level and there is a calculation you now have to use. Mrs. Kraeger said it was difficult to make the choice to raise lunch prices, but the R.I. Department of Education is responding to a Federal law on how to charge for lunch.

EARLY RETIREMENT

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee authorize the Superintendent to reopen Certified Early Retirement through July 15, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Kraeger said that if there are changes in pension, some teachers might consider retiring.

COMMITTED FUNDS MEDICAID

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee commit Medicaid funds to offset Special Education as in Part B of IDEA, Section 300.184.230. Unanimous vote.

This also aligns with the Fund Balance Policy and any balance we had for Medicaid would be committed to use for special education costs.

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COMMITTED FUNDS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee commit the Department of Defense funds and the Cell Tower Rental funds to offset Capital Improvement expenditures. Unanimous vote.

This also follows GASB (General Accounting Standards Board) laws.

OLD BUSINESS

•Clerical Reorganization – Each clerical position is being reviewed with the goal to be more 21st Century oriented. There will be a performance review for each job. Any increase will be performance based. This is aligned with BEP and accountability. There needs to be more cross training, elimination of unnecessary paperwork, inefficiencies and redundancies. All categories will be changed. Mrs. Kraeger met with representatives of the group and will meet with each clerical staff individually.

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business for June 16, 2011.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

CURRICULUM – Funding from ARRA grant dollars will enable the School Department to put presentation equipment (LCD's, TV's) in every classroom in the district and increase the computer labs at Gaudet School and the high school. Ms. Pellerin said that this is part

of the State fiscal stabilization for 09-10. Approval of additional funding was received in April. Existing computers would not be replaced, but new computers would be added. Students are using the current labs for testing.

FINANCIAL – Mrs. Kraeger sent the Finance Director a memo about increasing the bottom line by \$672,000. Included is a one-time expenditure for ARRA and \$226,000 for Medicaid reimbursement. In future years, grant funds will be reclassified.

The first Unifund meeting was held. There was discussion about making sure existing human resource data will align with Unifund. We will work with RIDE to have a clean chart of accounts. The plan is to go live with financial system for accounts payable in September, and payroll in January. We continue our efforts to bridge information with the Town.

The Commissioner has ruled on the MET school tuition. This is a 5 year phase-in model. The per pupil allocation is \$9,000. In order to phase it in, Middletown will pay \$1,700 per student the first year and will slowly phase in until \$9,000 per student is reached. Mrs. Fenton said she has an issue with paying this tuition to these schools when standards are not as high as the Middletown Public Schools and the State testing results are lower than Middletown's.

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Mrs. Fenton asked about ELL findings and other actions. Mrs. Kraeger said we will review this report and the Special Education report and make a recommendation when we have all three data pieces together.

FACILITIES – During the month of June, 332 events were held in the schools. There were 243 work orders issued in May.

There was an error on National Grid bills which they are in the process of correcting. We have received credits on the bills. The Gaudet School and High School are the two largest consumers of electricity in Middletown. Regarding gas usage, on average we are .30 a therm under what National Grid is charging. By going out to bid, we saved \$63,000.

Building Advisory Committee – Through Fielding and Nair, the School Department hired an architect to complete a building study. The architect toured the buildings and discussed the projects. It does not look like we would need to apply for a waiver. The proposal can be submitted and then we wait and see what changes are needed.

The Town has allocated \$291,000 in Capital Improvement funds. Money has been allocated for the high school roof repair, painting of inside of schools, fire upgrades. Smoke doors will be put in to allow us to use the lower courtyard. Funds will be used for HVAC at Gaudet School. The scheduled for the Aquidneck School project is very aggressive. There is concern that it will not happen in time and the project should be pushed back to next year. We need to ask the

Town Council if these funds can be held for a year or used for another project.

There was a walkthrough of the wood shop/metal shop area at the high school. The art/ceramics rooms could be moved to where the metal shop is, then an art studio and robotics area could be created. Town Council approval would be necessary to transfer funds from the Aquidneck School project to the high school. Metal shop equipment would be inventoried and stored until it is determined what to do with it. Miss DiPalma wants to make sure that the Aquidneck School project is completed next year.

Mrs. Kraeger has met with Renee Gamba from the planetarium. We need to look into fundraising for new carpeting, seats, and other upgrades.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee receive the Superintendent's Reports. Unanimous vote.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

No Reports of Officers and Committees.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 8:23 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk